

## 12.141 NARCOTIC DETECTION CANINES

### **Reference:**

Procedure 12.140 - Canine Operations  
Procedure 12.545 - Use of Force  
Standards Manual 41.1.4

### **Policy:**

Narcotic detection canines are extremely effective when used within the boundaries set by the courts. Summarized below are those boundaries:

Obtain a search warrant, or a consent to search, before using narcotic detection canines to sniff areas where defendants have the right to privacy; e.g., homes, places of residence.

Only reasonable suspicion is required for a canine to sniff areas where defendants have a reduced expectation of privacy; e.g., vehicles suspected of containing narcotics.

A canine may sniff an area to gain probable cause for obtaining search warrants for private property in public places; e.g., lockers in bus terminals and schools (with permission of person in charge).

Narcotic detection canines are not infallible. Their effectiveness depends on the intelligent use of their capabilities by division personnel. Handlers will maintain control of the canine and be diligent to ensure the safety of the general public.

### **Procedure:**

#### A. Use of Narcotic Detection Canines:

1. Narcotic detection canines and handlers are assigned to the Park Unit and are normally available 24 hours daily. Use narcotic detection canines during their normal working hours whenever possible. If Cincinnati Police Division narcotic detection canines are not available, utilization of RENU (Regional Narcotics Unit) narcotic detection canines may be requested.

- a. Outside normal duty hours, PCS (Police Communications Section) can recall narcotic detection canines using the same guidelines for other canine teams as outlined in Procedure 12.140, Canine Operations.
2. Cincinnati Police Division narcotic detection canines will be primary responders. The canines are to be utilized to develop probable cause in compliance with search and seizure standards. The trained handlers will provide information for best canine use.
  - a. When a narcotic detection team is not working, PCS will contact a Canine, Park, or Mounted supervisor for recall of a narcotic detection team.
3. Only assigned handlers will conduct searches with narcotic detection canines.
  - a. The handler is responsible for the safe and effective use of the narcotic detection canine.
4. Narcotic detection canines can detect the following substances:
  - a. Cocaine/Crack
  - b. Heroin
  - c. Hashish
  - d. Marijuana
  - e. Opium
  - f. Methamphetamine

B. Building Searches:

1. Secure the search area.
  - a. All officers will remain out of the area to be searched prior to the canine responding until notified by the canine handler the search is completed.
2. Remove all persons and animals from the search area.
  - a. When unable to remove, place all persons/animals in one restricted area.
3. Do not follow or get close to the canine when he is working unless specifically requested by the handler.
4. Advise the handler of anything that could injure the canine; e.g., needles, broken glass, etc.
5. Keep noise to a minimum when the canine is searching.

C. Persons Injured by Narcotic Detection Canines:

1. A supervisor will complete necessary reports as outlined in Procedure 12.140.
2. A RENU supervisor will report canine bites involving Cincinnati Police Division narcotic detection canines assigned to RENU on a Form 18C (Use of Canine). If a RENU supervisor is unavailable, a shift supervisor will complete the report.
3. The immediate supervisor of a police officer or other City employee injured by a narcotic detection canine will complete a Form 91SP (Supervisory Investigation of Employee Injury) in addition to a Form 316.

- a. If the police officer's or other City employee's immediate supervisor is unavailable, a supervisor from the district where the injury occurred will complete the report.

D. Prohibited Use:

1. Do not use narcotic detection canines to search people.
2. A narcotic detection canine's reaction on finding narcotics is normally aggressive. Therefore, do not engage narcotic detection canines in covert or undercover searches.
3. Narcotic detection canines are trained to interact and communicate exclusively with their handlers.
  - a. Police personnel are not to tease, pet, feed, or interact with these canines, since these actions can reduce their effectiveness.

E. Reports:

1. Handlers of division owned canines will maintain a continuous record of all instances of narcotic detection canine usage.
  - a. RENU will maintain all records concerning RENU owned canines.

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